

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) Orthodontic appliance, which ~~consists, in full or in part, of~~ comprises a plastic material having a water absorption capacity and which is impregnated with a water-soluble additive that restrains the formation of plaque.
2. (Original) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1, obtained by
 - moulding the orthodontic appliance from the plastic material;
 - impregnating the orthodontic appliance with the dissolved additive; and
 - drying the orthodontic appliance.
3. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2,~~ characterised in that wherein the plastic material is moulded by injection moulding.
4. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2,~~ characterised in that wherein prior to the impregnation process, any volatile components, ~~such as non polymerised formaldehyde,~~ are driven out from the orthodontic appliance.
5. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 4, characterised in that wherein the volatile ~~substances~~ components are driven out by leaving the orthodontic appliance to soak in water that has been heated up to a temperature above room temperature, and that the orthodontic appliance is then dried.
6. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 4 ~~or Claim 5,~~ characterised in that wherein for driving out the volatile substances, the orthodontic appliance is exposed to a subatmospheric pressure.
7. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 6, characterised in that wherein the orthodontic appliance is heated prior to or while being exposed to the subatmospheric pressure.
8. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 7, characterised in that wherein the orthodontic appliance is heated up to 40° Celsius to 60° Celsius.

9. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2,~~
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the orthodontic appliance is impregnated by leaving it
to soak in an aqueous solution of the additive.
10. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 9,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the solution is heated.
11. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 10,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the solution is heated up to 40° Celsius to 60° Celsius.
12. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the selected additive is one that has an antibacterial
effect.
13. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the orthodontic appliance contains pores in which the
additive is deposited.
14. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 13,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the orthodontic appliance contains micropores in which
the additive is deposited.
15. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the plastic material is a polyoximethylene or a
polyarylether ketone.
16. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the additive has a wetting property.
17. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the additive includes a wetting agent.
18. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 17,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the additive includes an aminofluoride as a wetting
agent.

19. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 18, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the wetting agent is N' - octadecyl trimethylenediamine - N,N,N' - tris (2-ethanol) - dihydrofluoride or 9 - octadecenylamine - hydrofluoride.
20. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the antibacterial additive is tin fluoride or includes tin fluoride.
21. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 20, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the additive includes tin fluoride in combination with an aminofluoride.
22. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the additive is or includes a derivative of hexamethylene bisguanide, ~~especially chlorohexidine digluconate.~~
23. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it is a bracket or a buccal tube.
24. (New) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 2 wherein the plastic material is moulded by injection moulding.
25. (New) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 2 wherein prior to the impregnation process, any volatile components, ~~such as non-polymerised formaldehyde,~~ are driven out from the orthodontic appliance.
26. (New) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 5 wherein for driving out the volatile substances, the orthodontic appliance is exposed to a subatmospheric pressure.
27. (New) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 2 wherein the orthodontic appliance is impregnated by leaving it to soak in an aqueous solution of the additive.
28. (New) The orthodontic appliance of claim 4 wherein the volatile components is or include non-polymerised formaldehyde.

29. (New) The orthodontic appliance of claim 25 wherein the volatile components is or include non-polymerised formaldehyde.
30. (New) The orthodontic appliance as defined in claim 1, wherein the additive is or includes chlorohexidine digluconate.